

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/605,214
Docket No.: 9789-US-PA

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

It is noted with great appreciation that the Examiner considers claims 1-2, 5-7 as allowed and claims 12-14 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Office Action, however, rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mehta et al. (USP 6,261,944).

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 8, 13-14 and cancelled claim 12. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims, 1-2, 5-7, 8-9, 13-14 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claim 12 has been cancelled, without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice, and independent claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12 which the examiner considered as allowable subject matter. Applicants have cancelled the aforementioned claim merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present invention. Applicant reserves the right to purpose the subject matter of this and previously cancelled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose.

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-2, 5-7, 8-9, 13-14 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present

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application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the presently pending claims 1-2, 5-7, 8-9, 13-14 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: *July 5, 2005*

Respectfully submitted,



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